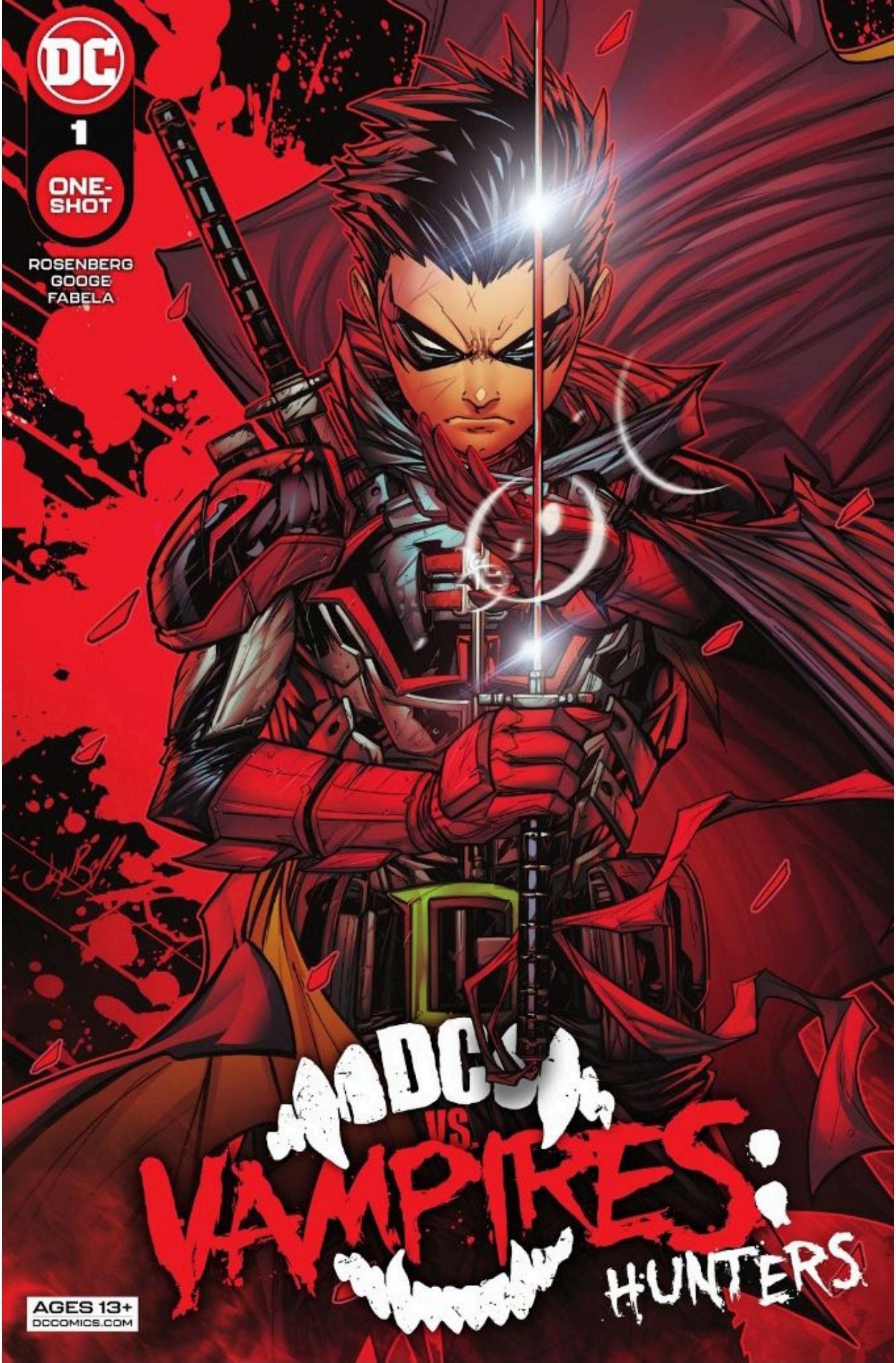
DC
1
ONE-SHOT
ROSENBERG
GOOGE
FABELA
DC VS. VAMPIRES: HUNTERS
AGES 13+
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THE FALLEN CITY KNOWN AS GOTHAM. SEAT OF POWER OF THE VAMPIRE KINGDOM.
THE PROMISE
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QUICKLY. THIS WAY.
YOU ARE OUR CONTACT?
YES.
HOW CAN WE BE SURE?
IF I WASN'T, YOU'D ALREADY BE DEAD.
...OKAY.
WHICH ONE OF YOU GETS US OUT OF HERE?

HE IS NOT WITH ME. RUN. NOW.
HELLO, J'ONN.
YOU'VE BEEN A VERY BUSY MARTIAN. ALL THE VAMPIRES ARE LOOKING FOR YOU.
IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS NIGHT, TELL YOUR MASTERS YOU DIDN'T FIND ME.
NAH...
FWOOOSH
AFRAID I CAN'T DO THAT.

THE FORMER WAYNE TOWER. HEADQUARTERS OF THE GLOBAL VAMPIRE COALITION.
NAME?
YOU KNOW MY DAMN NAME, BLACK MASK.
NOT GOOD WITH FORMALITIES, ARE YOU, BOY?
NOT GOOD WITH SELF-PRESERVATION, ARE YOU, OLD MAN?
YOU HAVE ANOTHER BOUNTY TO COLLECT, BATBABY?
YEAH.
ALIVE OR DEAD?
DEAD.
A MEMBER OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE THIS TIME? YOU'RE MOVING UP IN THE WORLD, KID.
GOOD. I WANT TO MOVE UPSTAIRS AND SEE HIM.
WE'VE BEEN GOING OVER THIS FOR MONTHS. NOBODY SEES THE KING. NOW RUN ALONG BEFORE I HAVE TO SPANK YOU.

YOU EVER WONDER WHY I'M ONE OF THE MOST FEARED BOUNTY HUNTERS IN THE KINGDOM, AND YOU'RE A GLORIFIED JANITOR WITH A GOOFY MASK ON?
WANNA FIND OUT?
ANY DAY, LITTLE--
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM HERE, GENTLEMEN?
NOTHING, MY LORD.
HE WAS TRYING TO SEE THE KING, MY LORD.
RISE, YOUNG DAMIAN...
NOT YOU, ROMAN.
DAMIAN, YOU KNOW OUR KING CONSIDERS YOU A BROTHER.
A BROTHER I CAN'T EVER SPEAK TO.
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO SPEAK WITH HIM, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.
CAPTURE ONE OF THE KING'S ENEMIES.
ALIVE.
YOU'RE A SMART KID. I SEE WHY HE LIKES YOU.

HOLD STILL, DAMMIT.
THE LONG-ABANDONED MOENCH STREET STATION. HQ OF A VERY SMALL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT.
I DON'T APPRECIATE THE CHILD ATTACKING ME LIKE THAT.
HE HAD TO MAKE IT LOOK REAL IN CASE ANYONE WAS WATCHING.
AND I WAS BORED.
=SIGH=
OH WONDERFUL. YOU'VE RETURNED.
IF YOU ARE SOMEHOW CONFUSED AS TO WHO WOULD BE THE VICTOR WERE WE TO *REALLY* DO BATTLE, I WOULD HAPPILY ELUCIDATE THINGS FOR YOU, LITTLE BLOOD-SUCKER.
WHOA. LOOK AT THIS FIGHTING SPIRIT. WHO *LIT A FIRE* UNDER *YOUR* BUTT?
EASY NOW. WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME SIDE HERE. APOLOGIZE, DAMIAN.
SORRY, J'ONN. I CAN BE A BIT OF A *HOTHEAD*. SOMETIMES I JUST NEED SOMEONE TO SHINE *A LIGHT* ON THAT TO REMIND ME. IT'S--
ENOUGH.

YOU'RE WELCOME, BY THE WAY, J'ONN. THEY THINK YOU'RE DEAD.
I DID NOT WANT THEM TO THINK I WAS DEAD. I WANTED THEM TO THINK I WAS HELPING HUMANITY.
SAME THING.
LET'S GET YOU FED, MASTER DAMIAN. IT'S ALREADY UP TO TEMPERATURE.
WHAT ARE YOU FEEDING THE CHILD?
HIS NEEDS ARE DIFFERENT FROM OURS, MASTER J'ONZZ.
SOME MUST SACRIFICE SO THAT OTHERS MAY LIVE.
IT'S PIG'S BLOOD. SHHH.
WHAT YOU ARE DOING HERE IS ADMIRABLE, SON OF WAYNE. RESCUING HEROES WHO ARE IN THE VAMPIRES' CROSSHAIRS. BUT WE CANNOT LIVE UNDERGROUND HERE FOREVER.
ONCE THEY'VE MARKED YOU, YOU'RE DEAD IF YOU STAY. SO WE NEED TO GET PEOPLE OUT OF GOTHAM IN GROUPS.
I DO NOT WANT TO RUN.
TOO BAD.
NO LUCK GETTING TO RICHARD?
NO. DICK IS HIDING, SAME AS US. ONLY WAY I GET TO HIM IS IF I BRING IN SOMEONE HE WANTS...
NO.
I'M JUST SAYING--
NO.

RISE AND SHINE!
THE LITTLE BATBABY BACK SO SOON?
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
DID I HURT YOUR FEELINGS, BATBABY?
NO, YOU JUST SOUND STUPID.
SO WHAT DO YOU WANT?
I WANNA CHAT WITH THE KING.
UHHHN.
THUMP
LEMME GUESS. YOU GOT DARKSEID IN THERE THIS TIME?
NO...
PLEASE... JUST LET ME GO.

THE THRONE ROOM. FORMERLY BRUCE WAYNE'S OFFICE.
HELLO, DAMIAN.
HI, DICK.
HOW ARE YOU? I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE--
YOU KILLED MY FATHER AND TURNED ME INTO THIS. NO, YOU HAVEN'T.
AND WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME?
HELLO, ALFRED. SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN. IT'S BEEN TOO LONG.
HELLO, MASTER RI... HELLO, RICHARD.
I WAS WARNED THAT IMMORTALITY CAN MAKE ONE NOSTALGIC, BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO HAPPEN QUITE SO SOON.
SEEING YOU HERE TAKES ME BACK, ALFRED. IT REMINDS ME OF THAT TRIP BRUCE TOOK US ON TO MIDWAY CITY FOR MY BIRTHDAY.
I'M TRYING TO REMEMBER... WHAT WAS THAT DESSERT HE HAD DELIVERED TO OUR ROOMS?
I'M AFRAID I DON'T RECALL A TRIP TO MIDWAY CITY ON YOUR BIRTHDAY, RICHARD. NOR THE DESSERT.
HA. VERY GOOD. THAT WAS A TEST...

BUT EVEN THOUGH I CAN'T EAT IT ANYMORE, I'LL NEVER FORGET THE TASTE OF THE CHOCOLAT AU CRUMBLE DE FRAISES.
HARDER TO DO YOUR TRICKS WHEN YOU CAN'T READ A VAMPIRE'S MIND, ISN'T IT, J'ONN?
THE KILL IS MINE, MARTIAN!
DON'T WORRY, DAMIAN. I'VE MADE SURE HE WON'T GET IN THE WAY OF OUR FUN.
GRAAAH!

KNIVES? ADORABLE. I DO ALWAYS FORGET HOW FAST YOU ARE, THOUGH. AND BEING A VAMPIRE HAS ONLY IMPROVED YOUR SPEED.
I CAN'T SAY THE SAME FOR THE MARTIAN MANHUNTER, THOUGH. SO SLOW.
WHAT *IS* YOUR PLAY HERE, ANYWAY? YOU WANT POWER? EVEN IF YOU TOOK ME OUT, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE VERY FAR FROM NEXT IN LINE FOR THE THRONE, DAMIAN.
OR WERE YOU JUST TRYING TO BE LOYAL AND RECRUIT NEW SOLDIERS FOR ME, IN YOUR OWN WEIRD WAY?
SADLY, WE DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO TURN HIM INTO ONE OF US *YET*. BUT WE HAVE OUR BEST SCIENTIFIC MINDS WORKING ON IT.

WHATEVER THIS IS, IT DOES FEEL LIKE YOU PUT A LOT OF WORK INTO IT. I COMMEND YOU FOR THAT.
GAH.
CAN'T... GET...
I WAS TRYING TO BE OPTIMISTIC...
...BUT THIS WAS AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT, RIGHT?
AND I'M AFRAID YOUR CO-CONSPIRATOR IS DOWN.
LEAVING YOU ALL ALONE ON A TEAM OF ONE ONCE AGAIN.
NOW, WHERE WERE...OH, RIGHT. YOU SMUGGLED IN A STAKE. HOW DEPRESSINGLY HUMAN OF--
SHUT THE [redacted] UP.

YOU HAVE TO ANSWER ME THIS. IF IT'S NOT THE POWER YOU'RE AFTER, WHAT IS IT? JEALOUSY? YOU'RE ANGRY THAT I DIDN'T PICK *YOU* TO SIT BY MY SIDE?
YOU MADE THIS MISTAKE WHEN YOU WERE HUMAN, TOO. ALWAYS THINKING EVERYONE LOOKS UP TO YOU.

I DON'T LOOK UP TO YOU, DICK. I NEVER DID. I ALWAYS KNEW I'D BE BETTER THAN YOU WHEN I GOT OLDER.
BUT NOW YOU NEVER WILL.
SO IF IT'S NOT JEALOUSY OR POWER, EXPLAIN WHY YOU CAME FOR ME. BEFORE I KILL YOU.
ARGGH!
KRAK
BECAUSE YOU KILLED MY FATHER.
THAT'S IT... REALLY?
HE WAS A FATHER TO ME, TOO.
THEN WHY?
BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE PUT ME DOWN IF HE HAD THE CHANCE.

NO! HE WOULDN'T HAVE.
YOU KNOW HE WOULD. BRUCE WAS MANY THINGS, BUT HE WASN'T COMPLICATED. HE'S NOT THE PERSON EITHER OF US LOOKED TO FOR COMPASSION OR KINDNESS.
HE IS.
ALFRED!
AS SOON AS I KNEW YOU WERE COMING FOR ME, I RAIDED YOUR LITTLE UNDERGROUND HIDEOUT AND TOOK THEM ALL.
THANKS FOR BRINGING SO MANY TARGETS TO ONE PLACE, BY THE WAY.
HOW...?
I KNOW EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS IN GOTHAM. I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR MONTHS, KIDDO. I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW FAR YOU'D GO.
TURNS OUT PRETTY DAMN FAR.
LET HIM GO.
I CAN'T DO THAT, BOY WONDER. IN FACT, I SENT FIRE DOWN THERE TO COOK THEM ALL WHEN YOU CAME UP.
BUT NOW YOU HAVE A CHOICE. WE CAN CONTINUE THIS LITTLE DANCE WHILE THEY DIE, OR YOU CAN RACE AND TRY TO SAVE THEM.
I CAN'T PROMISE YOU'D ACCOMPLISH EITHER, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT IF YOU DON'T TRY TO FINISH ME NOW, YOU WON'T EVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE.
YOUR COMPASSION FOR THEM IS YOUR GREATEST WEAKNESS, DAMIAN.

STOP RIGHT THERE, TRAITOR.
NO.
I WAS HOPING YOU'D SAY THAT.
THE ELEVATORS ARE LOCKED DOWN AND THERE'S GUARDS ON EVERY FLOOR!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT, BOY WONDER.
NOWHERE TO GO--
WHOA!

GET AWAY FROM--
NO, WAIT--

HE'S HEADED YOUR WAY. THERE IS A PROMOTION FOR WHOEVER BRINGS ME HIS HEAD. UNDERSTOOD?
YES, MY LORD.
THOOOM
FIRE
WATCH OUT!
HEY, BLACK MASK!
HKK--*
REMEMBER WHEN YOU CALLED ME "BATBABY"?
THAT DID HURT MY FEELINGS!

ALFRED?!
WHAT HAPPENED?! THEY'RE ALL...
MASTER DAMIAN...
...YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME FOR ME.
GET DOWN!

GRRRAAAAH!
NOOOOOO--
KA-THOOOOOOM

MASTER DAMIAN, CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU'RE OKAY.
HER FLAMES... ULTRA-VIOLET... DYING...
NO. WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET THAT HAPPEN.
JUST GO...
YOU NEED THIS.
NO. I WON'T...
JUST DO IT, YOU STUPID BOY.
UNNH.
GOOD BOY...
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH...
...ENOUGH.
ENOUGH!
SORRY... I'M SOR...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. YOU REST NOW, MY SWEET BOY. I'M GOING TO GET US OUT OF--
HELLO, ALFRED.

HELLO, MAST...
HELLO, RICHARD.
IF YOU CAME TO FINISH ME OFF, I'M READY FOR THE FIGHT--
I'M NOT HERE TO KILL YOU, OLD MAN. IN FACT...
...I AM SORRY I DIDN'T GET THE CHANCE TO ASK BEFORE WE PARTED WAYS. DO YOU WANT ME TO MAKE YOU ONE OF US?
I COULD GIVE YOU THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE. IT WOULD MEAN A GREAT DEAL TO ME, IN FACT.
RESPECTFULLY? GO TO HELL.
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT YOU'D SAY. BUT I HAD TO TRY.
ALFRED, I'M SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING. IT ISN'T WHAT I WANTED. TIM. JASON. B--
DON'T.
DON'T YOU DARE SPEAK HIS NAME TO ME, OR SO HELP ME GOD...
SO BE IT.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM US?
I WANT...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW.
I GUESS I WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

WHAT GAME IS THIS?
NO GAME. IF I LET YOU BOTH WALK OUT OF HERE, YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER SHOT AT ME.
NO MATTER HOW LONG YOU LIVE OR HOW HARD YOU TRY. YOU WON'T BE A THREAT. I'VE MADE SURE OF THAT.
SO I GUESS I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT THE KID IS OKAY.
WHY?
BECAUSE THIS IS FOREVER. AND IF MY KIND AND YOUR KIND ARE GOING TO SHARE THIS PLANET, HE MIGHT BE THE KEY TO THAT.
HE HAS SOMETHING ME AND MINE LACK.
COMPASSION.
I THINK IF YOU LOOKED DEEP WITHIN, YOU MIGHT FIND THAT YOU'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, RICHARD.
MASTER BRUCE'S BLOOD PUMPS IN HIS VEINS, BUT YOU WERE BOTH HIS SONS.
MAYBE. OR MAYBE HE'S DIFFERENT BECAUSE WHEN HE TURNED HE HAD YOU. AND I HAD NO ONE. BUT HE'S ON A DIFFERENT PATH THAN ME NOW.
THEN THIS IS GOODBYE, ALFRED.
SO YOU WOULD LET ME WALK OUT OF HERE WITH HIM NOW?
I WOULD. IF YOU PROMISE.
I DO.
GOODBYE, MASTER RICHARD.
THE END...?